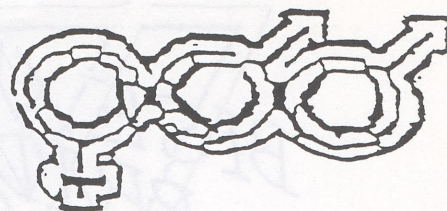


NATIONAL

BIWAYS



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 5

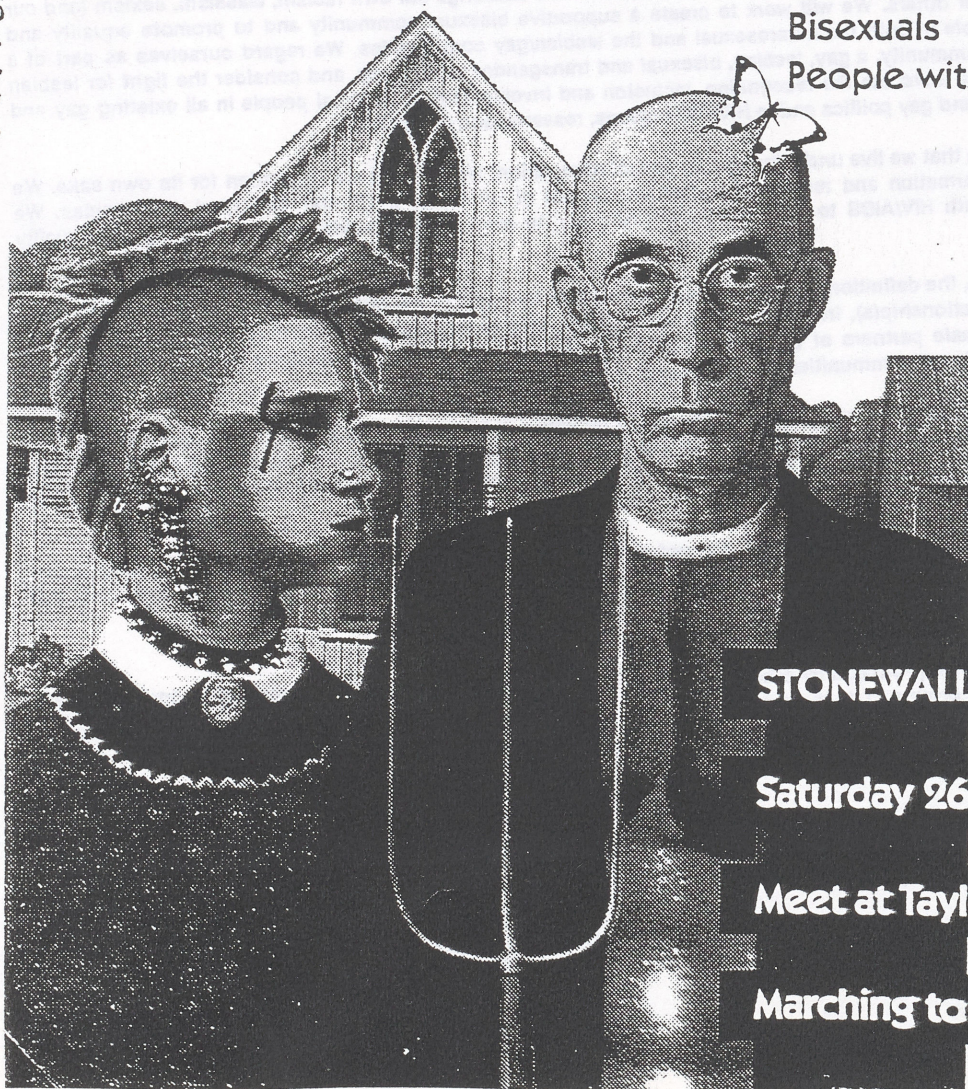
JULY 1993

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BISEXUAL MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA
PRODUCED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK PO BOX 490 LUTWYCHE QLD 4030
INCORPORATING BIWAYS NEWSLETTER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

We are family

Lesbians
Gay men
Drag Queens
Transgenders
Bisexuals
People with HIV

The Sydney Stonewall Commemoration March Poster 1993

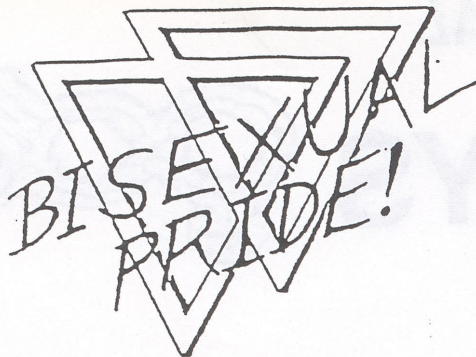


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STONEWALL '93 Sydney

▶
Saturday 26th June

▶
Meet at Taylor Square 6PM

▶
Marching to Kings Cross



P.O. Box 490
Lutwyche
Queensland
AUSTRALIA 4030

AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

BI

Australian Made

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ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Sydney Star Observer, Capital Q, National AIDS Bulletin, Genre, Gamma Project News.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

National BIWAYS is produced by the Australian Bisexual Network to inform its audience about social, political and personal issues relevant to bisexuality, to provide a forum for exchanging opinions and sharing experiences, to link up with and support geographically or socially isolated bisexual people, to foster the Bisexual Movement in Australia and to help build a diverse multicultural community of bisexual and bi-friendly people in Australia.

ABN realises that bisexuality is inextricably linked to other identities (gender, race, class, etc). Our intention is that *National BIWAYS* will represent a broad spectrum of bisexual voices and images. We are committed to taking an active role in building a multicultural bisexual community free of racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and other forms of oppression.

Through self-examination and through the contents of the newsletter, we will challenge our own racism, classism, sexism (and our own biphobia) as well as that of others. We will work to create a supportive bisexual community and to promote equality and understanding for bisexual people in both the heterosexual and the lesbian/gay communities. We regard ourselves as part of a larger sexual minority (queer) community, a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and consider the fight for lesbian and gay rights to be our own. We advocate the recognition, inclusion and involvement of bisexual people in all existing gay and lesbian communities, in lesbian and gay politics and in HIV/AIDS issues, research and education.

We are sex-positive, recognising that we live under increasing sexual oppression. We support sex education for its own sake. We advocate the distribution of information and resources to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, STDs and unwanted pregnancies. We support the rights of people with HIV/AIDS to be free of discrimination, to have access to information, housing and quality medical care and treatments.

We seek to expand, not constrain, the definitions of bisexual and we respect the right of the individual to define her/his own self-definition, identity and type of relationship(s), free from any social, political, religious or economic coercion. We acknowledge the right of partners, particularly female partners of bisexual men, to quality non-judgemental counselling and health services if needed, to greater understanding by all communities and to honesty in their relationship.

National BIWAYS is published at least once every two months (if not monthly). It is available by subscription, exchange or from the various affiliated bisexual groups in each Australian state and territory. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors unless otherwise stated. The inclusion of a person's name or photograph or business advertisement should not be taken as an indication of their sexual identity.

The Australian Bisexual Network and *National BIWAYS* are unfunded and rely on your support to keep going. We welcome submissions of material for publication; assistance with production; involvement in Network and group activities; individual and community financial or "in kind" support.

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CAN YOU HELP PUBLICISE NATIONAL BIWAYS?

Can you place an advertisement similar to this in you local or state newspaper?

BISEXUAL

Men and women for copy
of national Bi newsletter,
send long S.A.E. to...

Australian Bisexual
Network
PO Box 490
Lutwyche 4030

Confidentiality assured


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THE BISEXUAL / QUEER DEBATE CONTINUES.

The great bisexual - Queer debate continues on several fronts. During June debates and forums were held in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane on the themes Queer and inclusion of bisexuals and transgender people. Debates were presented as part of the Stonewall celebrations on June 23rd and 30th in Sydney (see write up of the 23rd and a notice from Capital Q for the debate on the 30th). Looks great, looks positive especially when we have seen the inclusionist poster on our cover.

Sydney Bi, Kate Hickson, Bi trannie, Norrie Mae Welby and Queer Collaborations, Matthew Hua, put forward some great arguments why bisexuals and transgenders should be included in THE community and THE community should be called the Queer Community. No one could have foreseen the absolute shit that was to come from past Mardi Gras president, Richard Cobden.



The
Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby
presents for Stonewall Week...

THE SECOND STONEWALL DEBATE

Following on from the success of the first debate, all interested community members are invited to participate in a discussion on the topic:

THE POLITICS OF "QUEER" — the way ahead or a new conservatism?

A debate about practical politics.

7PM WEDNESDAY 30TH JUNE

Tom Mann Theatre, Chalmers Street, Surry Hills

Hosted by Virginia Bell, debated by Norrie Mae Welby, Paul O'Grady, Kate Hickson, Richard Cobden, Matthew Hua and Jenny Wilson.

Followed by an open forum where you get your say!

Suggested donations: \$5 waged/\$2 unwaged

Donations go to: the Lesbian Space 500 x \$500 Project, Bisexual Network, the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and the Transgender Liberation Coalition.

Sponsored and supported by: Capital Q, PRIDE, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Bisexual Network, Lesbian and Gay Solidarity, Transgender Liberation Coalition, GalTas, Volunteer Community Street Patrol, Burn Magazine.

From Capital Q 25 June 1993.

Richard went on to claim the infiltration of the Gay and Lesbian Community was comparable to the Communist Khmer taker over of Cambodia and the Nazi takeover of Germany. Well if that didn't make him look ridiculous, may be someone should have brought up his interview for OUTRAGE (?) last year and his choice of partners. Other speakers were not so much against the concept of inclusion but fearful of loss in political clout in the use of Queer and the invisibility of gay men and lesbians with its use. Hey what about our invisibility with the use of gay and lesbian community!!!

In Melbourne on the 23rd, the Radical Women group hosted a debate/discussion on queer versus gay/lesbian from a socialist feminist perspective. It featured Graham Carberry and Alison Thorne. One can only wonder what it was like. Anybody got some feedback we would like to know.

Gay and lesbian identity politics in 'Queer Street'

"I will not have representation thrust upon me, nor will I thrust it on anybody else. My identity is mine, your identity is yours. I do not have the right to tell you what you are and you do not have the right to define me. My identity is chosen, developed and discrete."

With these words Cath Phillips, former Mardi Gras president and publisher of *Burn* magazine, opened Wednesday night's Stonewall debate: *From Camp to Queer: Is it time to redefine our community?*

Sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, which recently decided not to broaden its political agenda to include transgender and bisexual issues, a panel of prominent speakers addressed the 'queer debate'.

"Without a basic respect for difference, without honouring each other, political organising will degenerate into bitching, fighting, takeover bids and bullshit," Phillips told the community forum attended by about 100 people.

Phillips said there was no real common political agenda for gays and lesbians, and transgenders and bisexuals other than the basic human right to self-determination without violence and without fear.

"Immediate political goals do not coincide. However, what we do have is an amorphous social grouping where individuals give and take from each other," Phillips said.

Jane Clements, the Lobby's female Co-convenor, said lesbian visibility had increased over the last five years due to the specific inclusion of the word lesbian in written and spoken language.

"This is why I worry about the term queer. I believe lesbians will be made invisible once again if queer becomes a new, inclusive shorthand term. I mean queer would end up meaning what it originally meant: a gay man. We would find once again our community organisations being run by men; by white, middle-

class gay men, because history shows us that privilege rules," Clements said.

"Inclusion in the greater community can only come about by the insistence on my individual identity, not by it being consumed into an all-inclusive term. I believe that lesbian visibility which we fought so hard to achieve would be seriously diminished by being absorbed into the queer identity."

"By insisting on my own individual identity as a lesbian I have achieved what I thought impossible — I've become part of humanity rather than standing outside it. By insisting on my right to be a lesbian I have felt a member of a community larger than the lesbian community. I'd hate to see all that lost," Clements said.

Addressing the debate as a bisexual, Tanya Duncan described the major power brokers in the gay and lesbian community as white, educated, middle-class men whose liberalism had a tendency not to include issues of class, race and gender.

"Within the gay community there is a very real need to create new models of acceptance of political theory and practice and of a concept of community in which diversity is regarded as inevitable, as healthy and even as necessary to the survival of the group."

"Our task as we evolve from camp to queer and beyond even those categorisations is to find that home within oneself and be welcomed to sit at the hearth of a community which reveals in our diversity as the source of our strength, the vision of our future and the weapon against our oppressors," Duncan said.

Different people have different ideas, according to Peter Grogan, currently President of the AIDS Council of NSW and a member of the gay and lesbian media watchdog group, GLAMA.

Grogan believes gays and lesbians need to develop closer political alliances across a spectrum of issues.

"In terms of maintaining individual groups that represent individual interests but work in coalition, I think that works strongly, but I don't think we do it very well. Groups like the Lobby shouldn't apologise for pretending only to represent a particular group," Grogan said.

"I think the Lobby does have an obligation to work with groups with similar interests and the current issues around transsexuality, as it was left out of the Government's HIV and AIDS reforms, is a good test of our ability to work with other groups," he said.

Aidy Griffin, who is active in the Transgender Liberation Coalition, looked to history to address the queer debate: "In the '70s we had Gay Lib, which became dominated by theories that privileged male sexuality and identity, which led to a schism with the women who went off and developed Separatism. Rifts developed with the feminist movement and with the old Left. Into the '80s Separatism seemed to die and Coalition came to the fore. Nowadays we have the notion of queer to consider — a notion of diversity, innovation, change and fluidity," Griffin said.

"We are now being asked to define our community on the very questionable basis of identity and difference and exclusion. Who's in and who's out. To fix our vibrant community into a nice, neat, linear equation full of one-concept theories that mirror the logic of the doctors who invented the pervert over one century ago."

"Those of us in this room who feel excluded and oppressed by mainstream society might consider how we are victims of the eternal treadmill of identity and difference," Griffin said.

• The second forum 'The Politics of Queer — the way ahead or a new conservatism?' will be held on June 30 at the Tom Mann Theatre in Chalmers St, Surry Hills, from 7-9.30pm.

Continued from page 3.

Here in Brisbane as part of the Pride Festival, a number of speakers spoke from personal experiences on Coalition Politics. For most speakers Coalition Politics here in Brisbane means Queer Politics — all groups and queers working together to achieve a common goal but retaining their individuality and ability to do their own thing on issues of concern to them alone. Wayne Roberts spoke of his 5 years as a political activist in a biphobic community. Praised and used by the powerful gay men for their own political mileage and then left out in the cold when the bisexual issues are up for support. Kerry Petrie of the Australian Transsexual Support Assoc. spoke from the heart of years of work for the community and years of struggle for transgenders. Most speakers came from a queer perspective the exception being a separatist feminist lesbian but she had some interesting personal points to raise. She did not attack coalition or queer politics. EJ a lesbian queer from Queer Radio received the largest applause from the crowd (bar might I say the 3 SFLs) for her support of her friends no matter what sexuality or gender they are. Good on ya EJ.

Other happenings over June include the Stonewall Commemoration march in Sydney and the Pride march in Brisbane both on the 26th. Bisexuals marched as their own groups at both these marches. The march in Adelaide was cancelled when permission was denied. A fair was held but weather conditions it is believed spoiled the occasion. SABN was there despite the drawbacks. In Brisbane a fair was held after the march and QBN had an information stall with badges and T-shirts for sale. Almost 40 June newsletters were handed out to bisexuals mostly women from the stall. Both Brisbane and Sunshine Groups participated in the march and stall.

Yes, a group on Queensland's Sunshine Coast was formed on June 19th. Townsville is establishing a bi group there too. Anyone interested can call Jeny on (077) 712511 a/h. A Bi Women's Forum and Workshop was held in Brisbane on July 4th with Terese and Chris organising the event as the Chalice House Cafe as part of QBN's contribution to the Pride Festival. Ten women turned up and it is said a lot was achieved and all had a good time. They are getting together again on July 18th at Holus Bolus. A similar workshop for Bi Guys will be held at Chalice House on August 8th. Wayne is off to Sydney on July 10th for a conference, HIV, AIDS & Society, to do with his work. While in Sydney he will meet with members of the Sydney Network at their Monday night meeting on the 12th.

In Melbourne, the Victorian Bisexual Network was established on July 3rd. A report from Scott, Susan, Joe and Zoe appears later in this newsletter. A Gold Coast Bi Group is about to form. A meeting of interested bi folk is to be held on July 24th. The Perth group will soon start holding social functions again as Gordon has had quite a lot of calls from past members and new bis. The Movement is expanding in leaps and bounds. One of SABN's active members was in Sydney for the Stonewall March and had a ball with the Sydney Bi Network members at the march and party afterwards. Adelaide is soon to lose him but he hopes to help establish a Bi group in his new destination. Good luck and thanks for all your effort in Adelaide and to Biways.

Hi. I'm fine. And Bi.

Hi, my name's Charles and this is my story. Of course growing up wasn't easy, as you all probably well know. At school, the boys wondered why I didn't go out on the oval at lunch time to play with their balls. And the girls wondered why I was so easy to talk to. I was a teacher's dream, but school was a nightmare. I wasn't an outcast though. I was everybody's friend. I was the smart one, the funny one, the 'artistic' one. I was actually admired and respected.

Then I hit high school. And all hell broke loose. Now I was labelled the 'queer' one. But the conflict I was experiencing with my peers came nowhere near that of the conflict within myself. In class, I'd be fantasising about Mary on my left and eying John on my right. I didn't know if I was coming or going. I was so confused and began to believe what people were saying about me. I kept thinking, "Oh no, I'm gay!". So I practically forced myself to ask one of the school's most popular girls out, to prove to everyone (and myself) that I wasn't. I didn't have to try because I quickly fell in love with her. We saw each other for three years and split up only because she was of a race where prearranged marriages were almost compulsory. She was in fact my first love and I was finally beginning to understand my world.

But I soon found myself back to square one – confused again, for my second love was.....a guy. Was I straight or gay? I felt like a yoyo going back and forth, not stopping to think that there may be a third category of which I might be a part of. This guy opened me up to new experiences and new thoughts which blew me away and finally, I was introduced to that third category – bisexuality. He helped me come to terms with my new identity but it was ultimately up to me to learn to accept it. And I have, though I still have a little way to go.

I'm still very young but having lived almost two lives, I feel much older and wiser, knowing that my boundaries are not restricted or limited. As someone once said, "Bisexuality and all experimentation liberates us from false, narrow categories". A friend of mine who recently read my astrological chart told me that I'm a perfect Libran, balanced in every way, adding also that I was emotionally and sexually bisexual. I actually believe everyone is 'emotionally' bisexual (capable of loving members of both sexes, ie. mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, best friends, etc). But learning about my star sign helped me understand my sexually bisexual nature also.

The most important thing a person can do is to accept and respect their own sexuality, not necessarily flaunt it but at least value it. If it ceases to be a problem for them, they'll find it easier to be accepted by others, for a person must firstly come to terms with their sexuality before they can comfortably share it with others. Bisexuals need support, recognition and understanding, but most of all, from each other. We're not torn between two worlds, we're just the bridge between them. And by the way, I'm no longer confused. Because now, I'm fine. And..... Bi.

Charles Manning.

A gay bi-monthly magazine
from Los Angeles, California

*A true
story about
the most
controversial
issue of the
nineties*



My Second Coming Out

BY MICHAEL SZYMANSKI



I knew from the outset that this relationship would mean trouble. I'd have to come out — again. By doing so, I've already lost a few friends. I may lose some work. I ignore the jokes, the sneers, the side-long glances when we're seen together. Mom thinks it's only a phase.

I'm involved with a woman. WHAT! Yes, a woman. My West Hollywood landlord says he hates me flaunting such blatant straightness. An ex-editor-in-chief of a gay magazine warned me that I couldn't write for him anymore unless I was more discreet about *her*. Together, we're aware that we can't even hold hands when we're at my usual hangouts — my restaurants, clubs, coffeehouses, parties. We agreed: no PDA (public displays of affection), especially in front of friends. My friends are voyeuristically fascinated by us. They ask intimate details. They don't quite understand.

I've been seeing her for the past six months: a woman, a girl, a chick, a babe, a fish, a lady — whatever they call her — a person of the female gender. I'll call her B—.

It's my second coming out, and in a lot of ways, it's harder. Five years ago, I came out as gay to my Mom in my lover's kitchen. She cried. That led to losing childhood friends, a job, and lots of confidence. I've embraced "the community," participated in rallies and become somewhat noted as a homo-journalist and gay fiction writer.

Now, I find I'm being shunned by the very community I've strived so hard to finally get accepted into. I'm feeling defensive about my hypothalamus; I really don't know how big it is. I don't know where I fit in. Neither do my friends:

"Girlfriend, you're with a woman? That's a good one?!" laughed my bodybuilding former

sexuality



roommate whom I bar-hopped with years ago.

"Flip-flopping again!" exclaimed a straight female friend.

"Gay men get angry at bisexuality, as if they're threatened

"When will you settle on one side once and for all?"

"Are you trying to prove something to yourself?" Mom queried. "You're not telling her about your past are you?"

"She'll wise up soon enough," warned a lesbian buddy. "She'll soon see that she can't change you and she'll move on."

To the straight world I'm not fully bent, just straying down a crooked detour. To the gay world, I'm a sexual dyslexic who can't make up my mind.

I guess I'm bisexual, whatever that is. I'm disturbed by the first definition in *Webster's Unabridged*: "Bisexual— of both sexes; combining male and female organs into one individual; hermaphroditic." I don't have both sex organs; sometimes I think it'd be easier that way. I identify with the fourth definition: "A person sexually responsive to both sexes."

Best estimates of bi numbers is from Alfred Kinsey's sex studies: as many as 25 percent of American women and 46 percent of American men are bisexual based on their activities or attractions. A U.S. federal study estimates that six million men are bisexual. So, why isn't it one of the largest

because at least they can compete with him"

and most vocal minority groups? It's because some of us are really not sure what it is. Bi groups define it as: "One's own awareness of one's own capacity to be attracted to other individuals, regardless of gender." That seems to define everyone. I most prefer the definition by Karla Rossi, managing editor of the San Francisco bi quarterly *Anything That Moves*: "Bisexuality is a whole, fluid identity. Do not assume that it is binary or duogamous in nature: that we have 'two' sides or that we MUST be involved simultaneously with both genders to be fulfilled human beings."

Chronically straight Woody Allen once mused, "Bisexuality immediately doubles your chances for a date on Saturday night." I say — NOT! We're shunned by heteros because we're seen as sex vultures who brought the dreaded A-word to the rest of society, and we're mistrusted by homos because we're seen as traitorous chameleons who get our kicks with them and then go off to live our white-picket-fence dream and curse faggots.

Historically, bisexuality isn't new. It's part of cultures in Native America, North Africa, Bali, Turkey, China, even the Old West where cowboys despised the appearance of homosexu-

ality, but did the deed because women were in short supply.

Also, historically, people refuse to believe it exists. Bi once meant cool, mysterious, swinging. It was thought of as a "beard" for queers, like my friend who coos, "Ditch the bitch and make the switch, honey, you're gay as a goose!" Oh yeah? Well, in nature, it's true that male geese bond together, but in the

book *How They Do It*, zoologist Robert A. Wallace explains that when courting, a female goose "may suddenly interpose herself between two males and be quickly fertilized. The three can be seen together some weeks later attending to several tiny goslings, a happy—if a bit kinky—family." Why not?

From my earliest fantasies, I imagined being sandwiched between a man and a woman. It occurred to me that I just couldn't face being gay, but the fantasies continued even after I swore off women. I dreamed of a rough, muscular

by it. They would rather you cheat with another man

body breathing down behind me and a supple, lithe, hairless body in front.

I never thought that once I'd put all my friends and family through the trauma of accepting my homosexuality that I'd suddenly say NEVER MIND, and date a woman. I really thought that once I passed those portals, I'd never return again.

Even the federal Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, is now fascinated with bisexual men, and they're in the middle of a study about their lifestyles. Epidemiologist Susan Chu, leading the study, said they've made a mistake in past AIDS research by lumping bi and gay men together.

"Bisexual men are missed or excluded by many gay organizations," says Chu. "Just because they have sex with men doesn't mean that they are involved in gay social activities, or are even accepted." The biggest problem is denial by the bisexual, says Chu. "Some have this sense of machismo that when they're dominant with a male partner they are not gay. They will never tell their wife or female partner."

Unfortunately, that fuels society's fear that bis are infecting everyone else because of their own denial. Chu says bisexuals who are open about their sexuality are less likely to endanger their partners because they know safe sex practices. Even still, the latest figures show that 689 women in the country now have AIDS from sex with a bi man, and 67 children were born with it because their mothers had sex with a bisexual. Statistics show that in California, Washington and the midwest, the rate of bisexuals infecting women is equal to or greater than that of intravenous drug users.

"Bisexuality seems more closeted than even IV drug use," Chu says. And what they're finding is that most bisexuals have more male sex partners, but longer relationships with women.

Now that I've hit the thirtysomething age, I tried counting up the number of sex partners I've had. It didn't surprise me

that I'm into the double digits as far as male partners, but it bothered me that it's almost double the number of past female partners. Yet, it's true for me that relationships last-

There's a theory that gay men turn straight

ed longer with women, so it sort of balances out.

When I went gay, I did it all the way. I moved to West Hollywood with a flamboyant friend who introduced me to Jayne Mansfield films, Romanovsky and Phillips concerts and *Dynasty* night at Studio One. I became friends with drag porno director Chi Chi LaRue, as well as with the grandpa of the gay movement, Morris Kight. But I'm not good at Bette Davis impersonations and I never did care how many times Farrah flipped her hair in specific episodes of *Charlie's Angels*.

My flamboyant friend sat me down recently and admitted, "Look, I have a hard time seeing you bring a woman home. I'm having to deal with my own heterophobia. I just don't understand you."

He doesn't believe bisexuals exist. He has a theory that gay men turn straight because they can't compete in the high-pressure world of buffed bodies and hot looks. "It's a lot easier to find a woman because then you can let yourself go and don't have to look so good,"

because they can't compete in the high-

he explained. "You just want the easy way, so you can be accepted by society. That's fine, but you're denying a part of yourself."

An artist friend calls me once a week wanting a report on my sex life with B—. He's fascinated that I can still keep it up (so to speak) and that she's still happy with me. He asks, "What's it like?" It's hard not to gush about how totally satisfied I am with her. But does that mean I'm not attracted to guys anymore? No way. I am.

Many gay men I know defiantly say they would never consider having sex with a woman—most of them won't even date a bisexual. But when you probe, it turns out some of them grudgingly admit they've been intimate with the opposite sex. My lesbian (once bi) hairdresser whispered, "I can't tell any of my lesbian friends I've dated men, but you know, most of them have done it themselves."

In one of the most comprehensive surveys ever taken of gay men, "The Spada Report," 17 percent of gay men said they were having sex with women. Another 21 percent said they used to. That concurs with a recent Bay Area study by sociologist Ron Fox where one-third of the 800 queers surveyed said they "did it" with someone of differing genitalia.

"These guys are bisexual, but they identified themselves as gay," says author James Spada, who compiled his study in a book. "A few guys seemed to do it out of a sense of obli-

gation, but the primary feeling of that group was that they liked sex with women, not that they were confused."

"The Confused Group" is the nickname for Gary North's rap group at the Gay and Lesbian Center in Long Beach. For 20 years, North worked as a counselor for people coping with their sexual duality. North recalls having a nice conversation with a handsome man at the center one day, but when North mentioned the bi group, the man's face fell and he walked away.

"Gay men get angry at bisexuality, as if they're threatened by it," North says. "They would rather you cheat with another man because at least they can compete with him, and not have to compete with the acceptance of all of society."

North started the first National Bisexual Newsletter about a decade ago and ran the first bi dating service. He knew he had erotic feelings for both sexes, but didn't feel connected to the gay-rights marches of the 1970s. He lived in a gay-dominated household with a straight woman who tried to understand his bisexuality, but never accepted it emotionally. Now, after four years of monogamy with a man, he finds that some straight friends are uncomfortable around him. "They knew I was bi, but now they're meeting a person of the same sex who I do things with in bed, and it's awkward for them," North said. His lover could never deal with his dating a

pressure world of buffed-bodies & hot looks!

woman. "Bi people have to deal with intense discrimination from both sides," North says. "The problem is, we don't have many role models."

Or do we? Sandra Bernhard and Madonna giggled about it on *The David Letterman Show*. Mick Jagger, David Bowie, Grace Jones and Elton John have talked about their dabbings with both sexes. Marlon Brando, Janis Joplin, poets Rod McKuen and Edna St. Vincent Millay, aviatrix Amelia



Earhart, Count Leo Tolstoy, feminist-activist Kate Millett, philosopher Plato, rich-guy Howard Hughes and writers

"From my earliest fantasies, I imagined

George Sand and Jack Kerouac all had proclivities toward both sexes. In fact, some of the greatest stars who ever lived, James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Errol Flynn, Tallulah Bankhead, Tyrone Power, Judy Holliday, Laurence Olivier, Greta Garbo, Richard Burton, Marlene Dietrich and Rudolph Valentino had relationships with both sexes, but kept it secret to all except their closest pals.

In most cases when the truth is revealed, the headlines always emphasize "their gay experience" and not the full gamut of their sexuality. For that reason, Cary Grant tried years of therapy to "cure" himself. And Rock Hudson, now heralded as Hollywood's Great Closet Case, could also get it up for women. Even the god of gay porn, Jeff Stryker, won't be classified as bi. Yet, he's certainly equally aroused by a pair of breasts or a tight, hairy ass.

A very well-known movie star, who is a friend of mine, had women grabbing him everywhere he went a decade ago. And many gay men had posters of him in their bedrooms. He's bisexual. Today, he has two children and a lovely wife, but hasn't put his homosexual desires behind him.

"It would hurt my wife if she knew, so she sort of ignores it," he says. "I love her: I'm super careful. Being with a guy is something I slip into only a few times a year." He "slips" only with other bi men in committed hetero relationships because it isn't dangerous. "Then, you won't have guys who want more, or try to blackmail you."

Why not come out? "I'm known as a family man," said the still-handsome star. "I'm trying to make a comeback. The public can't swallow something like this, even though most people I know cheat on their spouses. Being openly bi looks like you're fickle and can't make decisions."

He agreed to let me use his quotes, but he tried talking me out of writing this article — as did most of my straight friends who feared my openness would hurt me. When we were reviewing his quotes he refused to meet me in a public place because we'd be seen together. Already, I feel a chill.

It's honesty that keeps B— and I together. One night, after a date and some kissing in the car, she came in and

we both wondered if something was going to happen. I had planned to tell B— about my history before we actually did the wild thing. Y'see, I've had other women walk out on me at that point. These days, a woman feels like she has the right to ask, "Have you slept with a man in the past five years?" on the first date. It turns out that B— always knew,

but she had to hear it from me.

Telling her about my past was against much advice. Mom said, "Listen, you'll just scare her off. As long as you're OK now, who cares what you did back then. Don't tell her." A best friend suggested, "Wait 'til you've slept with her a few months. Prove yourself to her. Then it won't make much difference."

Now, B— tells me that this advice would have been the most surefire way to end our relationship. Her major concern with me was that I was in a widely touted high-risk category. I resentfully explained that I was safe. I get tested regularly. I fired questions back at her. Does she know the history of everyone she's slept with? Has she always been safe? Has she ever been tested? No.



being sandwiched between a man and a woman."

on all counts. She's like most straight people as far as that goes.

A relationship with a bisexual can work out, but even Kinsey co-author Dr. Wardell Pomeroy, a psychology professor at the University of Indiana, says it works for only a few. "It's very hard to sustain a relationship with a woman if the homosexual side takes over," he says. "She'll respond to the taboos of society, that such behavior is evil, sick and neurotic."

Monogamy, AIDS and when to tell your partner about your sexual identity are the three major issues brought up at the Bi-Net meetings in Los Angeles, says a bi Afro-American mental health worker who hosts the monthly talks. Because he is a foster parent of three children, ages 3, 4 and 6, he is skittish about being identified in print, although he's open and somewhat androgynous. I'll call him C—.

"I guess I'm still dealing with internalized homophobia," says C—, who helped start the bi rap group two years ago after having no luck meeting bis in gay groups. "Calling yourself bi used to be something you could hide behind, but now AIDS has changed that and it's worse than being gay." C— wants a family. His social worker gave him a hassle for being bi, and would have preferred he was gay because, "At least

(continued on page 70)
next page

you won't confuse the children." C— thinks of bisexuality as a separate third category: not hetero. not homo, but all of the above.

"Some gay men are women-haters and they project that onto us when they accuse us of fence-sitting," C— says.

There is no fence, according to Lani Kaahumanu and Loraine Hutchins, writers of the bi bible, *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexuals Speak Out*, (Alyson Publications, 1991.) After editing stories from 90 different cultures, ages and races, Kaahumanu says, "If you validate the fence, you support the system of oppression."

The biggest way bis are oppressed is the accusation that they can't stick to one person. "Monogamy was designed to enforce control", says Elias Farajae-Jones, founder of many radical political bi groups in Washington, D.C. He insists: "The main reason lesbians and gays are uncomfortable around us is that we seem to be so sexual; and straight people don't know how to deal with us either. They don't know if we're hitting on them or what!" Elias faces it with his own gay friends who are "in-the-life" (gay), but uneasy with him. "Some in the community resent that they're making strides on our behalf, but think we're not totally committed to them, or we shirk them."

Commitment is what everyone seems to want. Even my closest, non-gay friend asked me: "Well, which one would you rather be with? You have to choose." Can I be monogamous? I think I want to be. At the Bi-Net rap group I've confessed, "I've always believed if I truly loved a person, no matter what sex, I could be with that person and never want the other sex again."

They laughed.

"They're either tormented closet cases or the vanguard of the sexual revolution," proclaimed the now-defunct *OutWeek* magazine about bis. Ten gay and lesbian pride marches included the B-word in their festivities this year. That's ten out of hundreds, but three years ago the word wasn't used in any march. Virtually every college campus has a debate about including "bi" in the name of their queer-based clubs.

Lesbian high school counselor Virginia Uribe, who founded the ground-breaking Project 10 program at Fairfax High in Los Angeles for possibly gay or lesbian students, has noticed in the past two years that more teens are being bi-identified. She has added the word to all of her literature.

Labelled the GBD ("Great Bi Debate"), the issue is raging in the community. It's so new, that the woman dubbed "The Grandmother of the Bi Movement" is Boston teacher, Robyn Ochs, just 33.

"I noticed how some political lesbians dropped out of the gay movement when they'd start dating guys," Ochs says. "It's sad how we force people out of the community like that. There was no space anywhere for them, so they had to drop out of activism." In 1983, Ochs helped form a group of bi

women in Boston. Sporadically in Chicago, New York and San Francisco, similar groups formed. The next year, a men's auxiliary was formed in Boston, and the year after that, the umbrella group of the East Coast Bi Network was formed. Today, they have their ninth edition of a guide of 400 bi groups throughout the world.

"We need a list like that to meet others like us because we're so misunderstood and too many times we're still defined by the gender we fuck," says Ochs, who teaches one of three courses in the country about bisexuality. One course is at Cal State Berkeley, one at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Ochs's class is at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. The course explains sexual orientation, the weaknesses of bi research and problems facing bi attitudes.

"We've come out of the closet and created another one," Ochs says. "A repressed minority demands conformity and it's disturbing for lesbians and gays to find out we haven't conformed. We're not different enough for either side." A bisexual who admits going through a hetero-phase, Ochs is now a token bi for many groups she's a part of.

Philadelphia lesbian activist, Sandy Dwyer, wrote a nasty rebuttal to bis wanting to be included in homo groups, asking why they don't insist on being part of straight groups, too. "It's still important to remain separate and we cannot afford to dilute our quest by including any non-gay groups like them. The only time they experience discrimination is when they are in same-sex relationships and that's not anti-bi, it's anti-gay and lesbian. They have as much in common with us as they do with other non gays. They are merely opportunists."

Other gay activists openly criticize the new bi movement. "The bisexual identity movement frames itself with a self-comforting sense of equivalence," declares writer Ara Wilson of *Out/Look*, The Gay and Lesbian Quarterly. "Biphobia becomes equivalent to homophobia because it restricts freedom. The new bisexual movement yearns for recognition and community, but thankfully it has not emerged out of such an involuntary/voluntary process of painful identity formation."

Personally, I feel overwhelmed by biphobia. I'm on the masthead of four homo publications that don't use the word "bi," but I don't protest loud enough because deep down I feel we are a sub-group, not equal or separate. "Radical steps must be taken to shake up stereotypes," says Karla Rossi, who founded a bi magazine last year, and chose the name *Anything That Moves* to be deliberately controversial and create dialogue. Starting off as a 16-page newsletter, the now 64-page magazine has 500 subscribers, but few advertisers take it seriously.

"Advertisers think we're flippant and confused," Rossi says. "Our magazine is also put next to sexually explicit materials in bookstores." In fact, the magazine has poems, articles and news — no porn whatsoever!

The danger of separatism is that bisexuals begin to feel like doing the Church Lady's superior dance. Bi-Net therapist

(continued on page 74)

C— agrees: "I feel like we do have the best of both worlds and we are more evolved and open about experiencing life and sex with others. I think we're less judgmental, and more humanistic than most people."

The subtext is that bisexuals are better. Obviously, that's not true. "I want us to be more political so that we're seen as a family," C— says. "We're not the Cosby's but we do exist." And according to Ocns: "It's a sign of strength that we're discussing the needs of our diversities and that we're still all part of the same civilization. A lot of bi activists drop out because of all the phobia they face from the gay and lesbian community, but some of us stay in and fight."

Bisexual Resources

NATIONAL RESOURCES.

AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK PO BOX 490 LUTWYCHE QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA 4030

- national body for bisexual men, women and partners and affiliated groups in Australia;
- foster the bisexual movement in Australia;
- link up socially and geographically isolated bisexual people;
- provide a voice on bisexual issues and bisexual rights;
- develop a sense of pride and understanding in being bisexual;
- advocate on behalf of bisexual people and their partners;
- produce a national newsletter for bisexual people;
- develop a national bisexual archives and resource collection.
- contact Wayne Roberts on (075) 767240 or (07) 8572774 w/ends

QUEER COLLABORATIONS

c/- Lesbian & Gay Officers
SRC, Level 1
Wentworth Building
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
NEW SOUTH WALES 2006

- national network for non-heterosexual/queer students;
- organise a national queer students conference;
- organise Queer awareness on tertiary campuses.

GROUPS and CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND: Queensland Bisexual Network PO Box 490 Lutwyche Qld. 4030

- **Brisbane Group:** Terese (07) 3585516;
Wayne (07) 8572774 w/ends
- **Sunshine Coast Group:** Rosie (074) 482846
Jân (074) 429585
- **Gold Coast Group:** Wayne (075) 767240
- **Townsville Group:** Jeny (077) 712511

NEW SOUTH WALES: Sydney Bisexual Network

Box 54, 412 Oxford Street Paddington NSW 2021

- **Contacts:** Kate (02) 6981801; Adrian (02) 8889856

VICTORIA: Victorian Bisexual Network

PO Box 38 Clifton Hill Vic. 3068

- **La Trobe Uni Bi-Friendly Group**
c/- SRC, La Trobe University, Bundoora VIC 3083

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: South Australian Bisexual Network

PO Box 3391 Grenfell Street Adelaide SA 5000

- **Contact:** Margaret (08) 3446146

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Western Australian

Bisexual Network: PO Box 111 Osborne Park WA 6017

- **Contact:** Gordon (09) 3451720

BI IN THE LAND DOWN UNDER

Bisexual people speak out of life and love in Australia (and New Zealand).

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots on the 26-28 June 1994, the Australian Bisexual Network is calling for personal stories from bisexual women and men, partners, parents, children & friends of bisexual and bisexually active people from Australia and New Zealand. ABN would like as much diversity of bisexual people and their life stories as possible. Bisexual people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and people from ethnic backgrounds are strongly encouraged to contribute thus reflecting the rich diversity we really are.

Much detail is still to be worked out but it is planned to publish the stories for release in June 1994. People from state groups will be invited or may wish to volunteer to promote the project and act as a collection base in their state. Material must be accompanied by the author's name and address but this will not be published. Pen names can be used and will be published if requested. This is a daring project that will be the first of its kind undertaken about bisexual life in Australasia. Material can be of any length. More details will be in future issues of Biways.

Submissions can be sent to:-
DOWN UNDER PROJECT 94
PO Box 490 LUTWYCHE 4030
QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA.

BI ★ CONTRAST

With Anna Brown

AND WHAT ABOUT BISEXUAL WOMEN!

BISEXUAL ORIENTATION OFTEN presents a different set of issues for women and men and members of the trans community. Many articles on the issues of bisexual 'people' end up implicitly or overtly discussing the issues of bisexual men, failing to recognise that bisexual women even exist!

This omission is a failure to deal with feminism and yet again serves to make lesbians invisible. It is not sufficient either to overlook the fact that relating to women or men has particular consequences and that these consequences are tied up very much with sexism in our society. Not only is the experience of women with bisexual orientation generally different to that of other bisexual people, we have something unique to contribute to our communities.

We can bring to the current political debate about bisexuality a position which recognises that without the option of an exclusively lesbian lifestyle for all women, bisexual women would be defined in terms of the structure currently imposed on them by most men.

Some women are beginning to use the description 'bisexual lesbian' to recognise the central role of lesbianism in giving us the option of being able to relate to men according to new expectations. We can recognise the great capacity bisexuality has to challenge the gender system on which compulsory heterosexuality is based, but be careful not to add to the oppression of women by ignoring the current power imbalance that must be addressed.

Similarly, I must qualify what follows by pointing out it comes from a specific Anglo perspective and is not at all representative of the cultural diversity of people with bisexual orientation in our community.

Bisexual women can, together with other lesbians, challenge the misogynist attitudes prevalent in the gay community. We are in a particularly good position to contribute to the workings of coalition politics because on a personal level we are not only subject to the poor treatment that many gay men give us because we are women and lesbians, but we are also at times the female partners of bisexual men.

We can raise the point that silence about bisexuality within the lives of some gay identified men often seems to be a result of not wishing to be ostracised from a community, which can often be misogynist, for being associated with women. At the same time we can be encouraged by our own relationships with certain men, that some men are willing to take the initiative to deal with their own sexism.

By confronting the assumption that the female partners of bisexual men are all straight, we can challenge compulsory heterosexuality in a way unique to our position and at the same time raise the visibility of lesbianism as an option for women's lives.

We can lobby against inaccurate and demeaning portrayals of bisexual women by the straight media. Bisexual women are in no more need of a 'good man' than any other women. We have in common with other lesbians the need and ability to construct our lives according to our own desires.

In order to form a positive self identity many bisexual women have to deal with their own internalised homophobia just as many other lesbians do. Bisexual women have the potential to assist other women in overcoming their own internalised homophobia. By proudly attempting to create a language that describes the complexity of our reality, we give

more women the support needed to deal with homophobia at large without perpetuating the myths which encourage biphobia.

What needs to be recognised is that men (including bisexual men) who rely on analyses of bisexuality that depend on concepts of Yin and Yang for example, are creating a picture of bisexuality that bisexual lesbians could not possibly relate to.

Bisexual women who choose to be with men do so to assert their own desire, not because of some inability to survive without men. Of course, as long as there are men contributing to the oppression of women by defining bisexuality in those terms, bisexual women will find it difficult to be open about their orientation. It makes it more important than ever, now that bisexuality is gaining some profile in the community at large that we have a strong women's community that is supportive of difference and at the same time able to extend feminist analysis to describe the full reality of many lesbians lives.

Bisexual lesbians in the USA for the past several years have been developing a feminist analysis of bisexuality that actually places lesbian culture in a crucial position for them.

It is to be hoped that in the future, as a community, we can recognise the diverse experiences of lesbians and gay men in the community as something to be valued.

To fight biphobia, as bisexuals we must fight the cultural hatred of homosexuality, but we must be able to claim our right to do this while still being honest about our entire sexual orientation.

Anna Brown is a young bisexual woman studying at Macquarie University. She has been involved in coalition politics and bisexual activism on and off campus.

Bi thanks

Dear Editor,

Thanks to Anna Brown for "And What About Bisexual Women" (SSO 211) and for widening the terms of the bisexuality debate to include women such as myself who identify incorrigibly as both feminist and lesbian. I have grappled for a couple of years with an aversion to identifying as bisexual: an identity about which as many heterosexual misconceptions abound as for gay and lesbian identities, but I am undoubtedly a bisexual lesbian.

We should, as part of the gay and lesbian communities, be affirming whatever challenges stereotypes about 'acceptable' identities. Too many people, gay men and lesbians included, are all too willing to assume that women expressing desire for men automatically implies unconditional acceptance of traditional patriarchal and heterosexual values.

Such is not the case.

I have embraced a lesbian identity since the age of sixteen, with pride and certainty about my own desire. To recognise that I can also desire men has been equally exhilarating and confronting. Whatever the gender of my lover, I expect them also to accept and support my identity and my community.

Thankyou Anna for your lucid discussion of the many issues facing bisexual women and for pointing out that the existing discourse around sexuality is by no means complete.

Anneliese French
St. Peters

From Sydney Star Observer
25 June 1993.

Lesbians on the line

From July, phones will be staffed by two lesbian counsellors on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in a bid to improve lesbians' access to the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service (GLCS). At the moment the service gets 78 percent of its calls from gay men. GLCS phone numbers are 360 2211 or 008 805379.

Ed. How many Bisexuals ring GLCS (NSW) if 78% of calls are from gay men and % are from lesbians. Bi-invisibility again!!

Activism recognised

Adelaide's Lesbian and Gay Community Action (LGCA) has won an award from the SA Anti-Discrimination Board and the Equal Opportunity Commission for its work in anti-sexuality discrimination. The prestigious award has "thrilled" LGCA members, according to the group's Ian Purcell and will be presented by the SA Governor Dame Roma Mitchell, appropriately enough at a dinner on October 8, International Lesbian Day.

CALLING ALL BISEXUAL WOMEN

CALL FOR ALL FORMS OF WRITTEN AND VISUAL WORK FOR AN ANTHOLOGY BY AND ABOUT BISEXUAL WOMEN

At least half of this anthology will be written and produced by Women of Colour and the book will be published by Sister Vision Press, a Black Women and Women of Colour Press. We are an editorial group of six feminist bisexual women. We are Black, BlackAsian, South Asian, Ashkenazy Jew and white, able-bodied, working - and middle - class. We especially seek the voices of bisexual Women of Colour.

FINAL DEADLINE!! OCTOBER 31, 1993

Share your work with us:

Bisexual Women's Anthology

c/o Sister Vision Press

P.O. Box 217, Station E

Toronto, Ontario

M6H 4E2

If you can, please send your writing on IBM compatible disc and a printed copy. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope (and if outside Canada, International Reply Coupons) for return.

LETTERS

Dear Wayne (Ed),

Thank-you ever so much for sending me the June '93 issue of 'National Biways.' Finally, something interesting to read! Together with this letter, I have submitted a story that I wrote recently. And I would appreciate it deeply if the readers of 'Biways' had the chance to read it. I hope to become a regular writer for your (sic - our) publication as I love writing articles, stories, poetry and letters.

The bisexual community needs to be recognised and support among its people generously given, and I regard highly, the aim of 'National Biways' as an education and communication device for the bisexual people of Australia and of the world.

And finally, I believe that 'outing campaigns' of any sort are very immature. I would also like it to be known that I have absolutely no qualms about having my full name published. I have as much right to reveal myself as those who don't wish to.

Sincerely Yours,
Charles Manning
Brisbane, Qld.
14/6/93

Ed. Thanks Charles for the wonderful words and your personal history which has been reproduced in this issue. We look forward to receiving other material from you. It is great to see young bisexual people so together and proud. I hope you can come and speak at our Bi-Guys Forum at Chalice House, South Brisbane on the afternoon of August 8th..

Dear Secretary,

May I ask if you would please let your members know that I am offering a Winter special price of \$60 per person for a 3 course dinner, bed & breakfast and a one hour massage at my private home on a 5 acre botanic garden situated just off the highway near Ocean Shores, 10 minutes to the beach and 25 minutes south of Byron Bay & the nude beach. It is a pleasant 2½ hours drive south of Brisbane.

With Thanks
Yours Sincerely
Ken Reed (066) 845373
Milree Park
Skyline Road
The Pocket, NSW 2483
16/6/93

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a counsellor in Bunbury, WA & I was wondering if you could help me out. I am looking for any information, reading material, resources etc for bisexuals & for me counselling bisexuals.

Anything you can tell me will be appreciated. Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely
Carol Morgan
17 Clifton Street
Bunbury, WA 6230
10/6/93

Ed. Some material has been sent to Carol, if anyone else can help please do.

Dear Wayne,

Attached herewith are my newsletter subscription application and the "Sexual Conundrum" table which I mentioned yesterday. I am not sure whether its print quality is adequate for reproduction.

It is, of course, the classification of one scientist only and I question why female homosexuals, compared with "normal" females, should be characterized by irregular menstruation and enlarged clitorises. Do they masturbate more?

On the plus side, he concedes that male homosexuals may have male, female or both sexual psyches... With that, he probably targets bisexuals.

Please don't throw this copy out, it's the only one I have.

With best regards,
Otto
Sunshine Coast, Qld
20/6/93

Ed. Thanks Otto, the 'Sexual Conundrum' has been reproduced in this issue and your copy is returned with this newsletter. It is certainly a weird classification, interesting as well. One wonders if he has changed any of it since 1982.

For Linda's letter see next page.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OR ABN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Wayne Roberts
Australian Bisexual Network
P.O.Box. 490
Lutwyche, Qld. 4030

7 June 1993

Dear Wayne,

Having successfully facilitated another 8 week Support Group for Women Married to Gay or Bisexual Men (the fourth since I started last year), I am thrilled that the women from earlier Support Groups I ran in 1992 have decided to organize their own social support network which will meet on a monthly basis and will provide a continuation for those who go through my groups.

There is a wonderful warmth and acceptance that women have towards each other - whether they choose to stay in the marriage, leave or have been left. They struggle with the issues of stigma, understanding bisexuality, and changing relationships.

Time and time again what comes out is that bisexual and gay men need to understand that they need to "come out" to their partners and children in a way that is honest, loving and compassionate. Some men, not having worked through their own fears, lack of self-acceptance or guilt, simply abandon their families or react with hostility when wives, in shock react emotionally and confused, especially if husbands threaten them if they reveal to others the facts.

Coming out is never easy. It is painful and always difficult, BUT honesty, courage and love will in the end make a difference to either having an irretrievably shattered family or one that can grieve but finally accept.

My aim is to help families through this difficult adjustment process so that everyone can do more than simply survive, but can support, learn to understand and respect each other and accept the differences.

I want to encourage men to seek professional help in coming out to their partners if they cannot find a way themselves. If they are bisexual and not gay, they need to seek the support of someone who understands that and a gay counsellor is not always the best option. I'd like to encourage them to be responsible for telling their children themselves or together with their partners. Children need to hear it from their fathers. It may seem tough at the time but ultimately it is best for everyone.

We all need to live rich and fulfilling lives in a way that is true to ourselves and fulfills our potential. With a little goodwill and courage all members of the family can attain this.

Wayne, I need support in reaching people who may find themselves in this situation and who feel desperate and confused. In helping women partners to come to grips with the situation, I feel I am ultimately helping the children and the fathers as well. I am committed to making a difference to these families and if you could include information about the group in your next newsletter, I would really appreciate it. I do also see families and individuals privately, but there is a four week wait at the moment.

If you could let me have a copy of your latest newsletter I'd appreciate it.

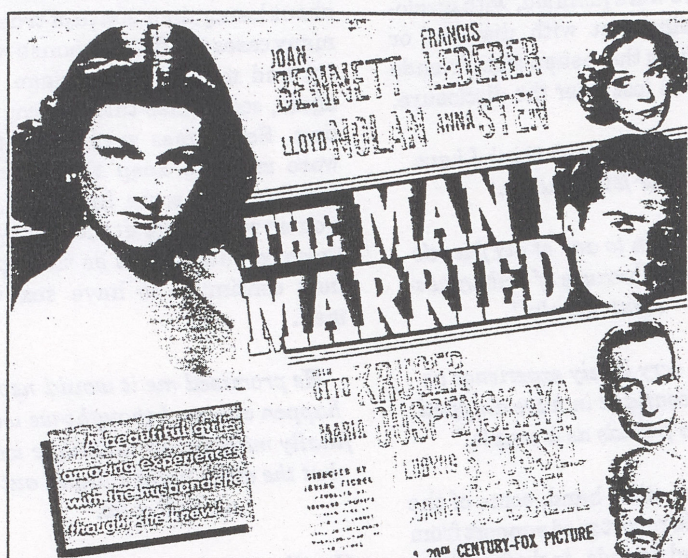
Kindest regards,

Linda Midalia

LINDA MIDALIA

Women Partners of Bisexual Men

Sara Lubowitz and Paul van Reyk



Sara Lubowitz is the Project Officer for Women Partners of Bisexual Men with the AIDS Council Of NSW (ACON). Paul van Reyk was formerly Policy Writer with ACON.

This article is based on information gathered over the last two years. Over this time two peer-based support groups have been meeting at ACON. They were set up and run by Sara Lubowitz who was then working in a voluntary capacity. In late 1992, ACON received a one-off allocation (the 'Grimes money') to fund a project extending this voluntary work. The project commenced in February 1993. This article will give some understanding of what the project has already achieved.

The information in this article was collected from letters written by 61 correspondents to the Women With Bisexual Partners group. The letters are from four periods corresponding to the appearance in the press of articles relating to the issue of women partners of bisexual men. These articles were written in collaboration with the support groups. There were letters in *New Idea* and *Cleo* in 1991, an article in *New Woman* in May 1992, a letter to the editor in *Who Weekly* in December 1992 and an article in the *Sun Herald* in January 1993.

About half of the women writing to the group did so in response to the article in *New Woman*, most of these being women from outside the Sydney metropolitan area or inter-state. The majority of those in metropolitan Sydney wrote in response to the *Sun Herald* article. This article was the second most common source overall.

All but six of the correspondents were women partners of bisexual men. Of these six, one was the daughter of a bisexual man, one was the mother of a woman partner of a bisexual man, two were from couples where one or both partners were bisexual and two were male partners of bisexual women.

Twenty-five of the correspondents were residing in metropolitan Sydney, 10 were from outer metropolitan Sydney, with half of these being from the Central Coast; 11 were from rural NSW; six were from Melbourne; four from elsewhere in Victoria; four were from other states and one was from New Zealand.

Half of the women wrote wanting information on existing groups, the other half took the opportunity to vent long-pent up feelings and to share their experiences. The following material is drawn from these letters and the feeling one gets from

reading them is that these feelings and experiences would be broadly representative of the women as a whole.

The length of time the women had been married ranged widely from one year to 27 years. Similarly, the length of time the women had known their husbands to be bisexual varied greatly from a few weeks to 25 years. There was no correlation between the length of time married and the length of time the women had known their partners were bisexual. The impact of disclosure appears as great irrespective of how long the couple had been married.

Most did not state their age, but taking the number of years married and the age of their children as a guide, the range is from the mid-twenties through to late fifties.

Most did not speak of their partners' sexual identities specifically as gay or bisexual. Of the 20 who referred to their partners' sexual identity, 11 described their husbands as gay or homosexual and nine said their husbands were bisexual. Some of the women had unresolved questions about, and issues around homosexuality. A few believed it would have been easier if their partner was having an affair with a woman. Some saw it as irresponsible that the men married at all.

Nineteen of the women reported that the disclosure led to either separation or divorce. The bisexual partner left in about half of these cases. Where it was stated that this was the case, it was often to live with a male lover. In the other cases it was the woman who left or who

asked the partner to leave. A number of the women were placed at severe financial disadvantage as a result of these separations. But separations were not always acrimonious and some women reported continuing close contact with the partner. Some of the women had remarried.

Where the marriage continued, some women were cautious about the future, wondering how long they could cope, and in other cases the couple continued to have a satisfying, though not always trouble-free, relationship.

The single most common response from the women was one of relief that the subject had been raised in the media and that there was somewhere to turn for support. Seventeen of the women had sought professional support, nine had been to counsellors, two to their doctor, two had seen psychiatrists and one had seen a social worker. One of the women had sought support from a gay men's group. Most of these women expressed dissatisfaction with professional support and were looking to find support from other women who had been through a similar experience.

"I am seeing a psychiatrist but hope that others in the same position as myself will be able to empathise more effectively with my feelings of betrayal and altered sense of sexuality than those who haven't undergone a similar experience."

"I need to be able to talk to someone who knows how I feel, and can maybe help me see daylight... Unless you live with it you can't possibly understand."

Two of the women indicated that their bisexual partners were receiving therapy and two indicated their partners were in contact with support groups for gay married men. Both of the latter had mixed feelings about this support, particularly in the absence of group support for the women.

Isolation was a common theme throughout the women's letters. Few indicated they got support from

friends or other members of the family. Some feared disclosing to friends and family. In many cases the fears were justified, with disclosure being met with disbelief or denial from these supports. Friends have been lost after the disclosure.

"Right now I don't think I have ever felt so alone."

"I can't turn to any of my friends for support because of embarrassment mainly."

"It is a very lonely experience as those I confided in have dropped us as friends as a couple."

On the other hand, some of the women did report good support from family and friends, including from the children of the marriage.

For most of the women the disclosure was traumatic and left them feeling hurt and angry. They wrote of the difficulty they had in coming to terms emotionally with the disclosure; of feeling devastated; of going through hell; of feeling like 'crawling into a dark hole and not coming out'; of the 'game rules' having changed; of pain that continued well after the disclosure and its immediate aftermath.

Most women described their marriage as having been happy until the disclosure. However, some of the women talked of always feeling something was missing in their relationship.

Some indicated that there was currently no sexual relationship within the marriage, that there was less sex than they had expected, or that the amount of sex had decreased over time. But sex was not the only thing missing. In some cases there was a lack of communication. One woman wrote:

"We have no sexual life, don't communicate properly, he expects me to take on the role of the man when it comes to the sexual side, I've lost interest, he says I don't try hard enough."

The women felt cheated. They were angry about the lies in their marriage. Some of the women talked about losing their sense of trust. In many cases the first response was to try and make the marriage work again, sometimes through counselling. Sometimes several attempts were made to keep the marriage together. In some instances, the women were angry at the betrayal of these reconciliations as their partners continued to have sex with men.

"He promised me it would never happen again. I thought we were finally making our marriage work, but the other night I found out it was all a lie."

"I will never trust my husband 100 percent again, I think it's a really cruel way to be in a relationship."

"Not trusting only destroys oneself but oneself feels pretty well destroyed anyway"

"Is he making love to me or is he fantasising about a bloke?"

Some of the bisexual partners reportedly denied that there was a problem, or expected the woman to simply put up with the situation.

Some of the women wrote of feeling that it was their fault, particularly that they were not attractive enough or feminine enough or that they had failed as a wife.

"I can remember feeling so unfeminine."

"In my particular situation I blamed myself because I am not an attractive person."

"Sometimes I just want him to hold me but then I feel so dirty, I don't know what to do."

Remarriage or a new lover in a few cases was linked to recovering this self-esteem.

About half the women said they had children, ranging from one to six children, with ages varying from a few months to adult children in

their twenties. Whether or not to tell the children about their father's bisexuality was a question that many had. Even where the children are now adults, they have not always been told. Where the children have been told there were no reports of the impact being traumatic for them. Some asked for information on support groups specifically for children.

"When you have children you just have to keep on going."

"I have five children who I am trying to protect."

"He is a good father, I don't want to hurt our kids."

Few of the women described the sexual behaviour of their partners, so it is not known how actively bisexual their partners were, or the patterns of their sexual behaviour. When they did write about it, the indications were that the partners had a number of relationships over the course of the marriage, not necessarily for casual sex only.

Seven of the women specifically voiced a concern about AIDS. Three stated they had been tested for HIV, and all were negative. Most of these women resented being placed in a 'high risk group' by their partners, having not been given the choice to have safe sex and were left with the feeling that the choice was taken from them.

All of the women were looking for some contact with other women, for information that would help them understand their situation and to learn skills to help them cope.

The two letters from couples were an interesting contrast to the letters from the women. One was from a couple where both partners were bisexual and who had what they describe as a very strong relationship which was open and honest. They wanted to see more written about the positive side of a shared bisexual experience. The other was from a couple for whom the shared experience works most of the time but who are looking for support for those times when the relationship is uneasy.

N.S.W. WOMEN PARTNERS OF BISEXUAL MEN PHONE LINE

008 069 814

26th July - 30th July
12 noon - 9pm

This phonenumber aims to collect information from women who are in a relationship with a bisexual man or who have been in a relationship with a bisexual man in the past or suspect that they may be in a relationship with a bisexual man. The information will be collected by women who are aware of the issues these women face. It will be completely confidential and the callers will remain anonymous.

This information is being collected to find out how many women in NSW are in these situations and to provide them with information about where they can go for more support.

It is hoped that the information gathered will result in more research being conducted in how these women can be given support and education on the issues of HIV/AIDS.

If women are unable to phone or can not get through to tell their story they can write to: WPBIM, P O Box 429, Narrabeen NSW 2101

"There are genuine flourishing relationships out there today where either the man or the woman or both are bisexual."

"We are living together and 95 percent of the time we are quite happy, we feel we understand each other but at other times our emotions make us become unbearable."

The letters from the two men both argued for the need for support groups for men whose wives have left them for another woman. They wrote that they share the experiences of the women partners of bisexual males. In both cases the men have custody of a child or children. Both felt isolated.

"...although the article was written from the woman's view point I could relate to all her feelings expressed."

"I wish you success in helping all those women affected by the sexual turns of fate of their partners."

It is hoped that through the project over the coming months women whose partners are bisexual will have more support available to them through support groups throughout NSW and by workers becoming aware of the issues for these women.

At the end of the project we will report on its achievements and present the information gathered over the seven months.

We would like to thank all of the women who wrote to us over the last two years, who had the courage to write their stories down and seek the support they wanted.

Bisexuality is still a closeted issue for the women and men in this situation. The closets will only be opened when we are able to frankly and openly raise and discuss the issue amongst workers in the HIV/AIDS area and give these women and men the support they need and to which they are entitled. ■

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN MARRIED

TO GAY OR BISEXUAL MEN.

HOW DO YOU COPE WHEN YOUR PARTNER ONE DAY REVEALS TO YOU THAT HE IS GAY OR BISEXUAL AND HAS SEX WITH MEN?

THIS IS AN 8 WEEK EXPERIENTIAL SUPPORT GROUP WHICH DRAWS ON THE FEMININE WISDOM, STRENGTH AND COURAGE OF WOMEN WHO SHARE THE DEVASTATING EXPERIENCE OF FINDING THEMSELVES IN RELATIONSHIP WITH A GAY OR BISEXUAL MAN.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS GROUP WILL BE:

- *TO BRING WOMEN OUT OF THEIR ISOLATION AND PROVIDE CONNECTION AND A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK THAT CAN CONTINUE ON AFTER THE EIGHT WEEK COURSE.
- *TO PROVIDE A SAFE, ACCEPTING ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WOMEN CAN FULLY EXPRESS AND EXPLORE THEIR EMOTIONS AND ISSUES.
- *TO PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON SAFE SEX AND THE RISK OF HIV.
- TO HELP WOMEN:-
- *TO COME TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND BISEXUALITY
- *DEVELOP NEW PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE AND EXPLORE THESE POSSIBILITIES IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT.

THE GROUP WILL BE FACILITATED BY PSYCHOLOGIST LINDA MIDALIA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT LINDA ON (03) 853 6614
OR
WRITE C/O AUGUSTINE CENTRE, P.O. BOX 385. HAWTHORN 3122 VIC.

Multiphobic

Dear Outgoing Editor,
Some people admit that bisexuals are hassled in gay bars, and may face prejudice there for being bi or for expressing affection with a person not of the same gender, but this discrimination is being dismissed as somehow tolerable.

Discrimination on the grounds of sexual preference is not acceptable, excusable or tolerable. It's not acceptable to discriminate against someone for being gay, it's not even acceptable to discriminate against someone for being straight.

A gay man recently complained to a female bartender that the employment of a straight male bartender was inappropriate in a gay bar. How acceptable is it to assert that the employment of gays in straight society is "inappropriate"?

Heterophobia, fear and loathing of actual or presumed heterosexuality, is as repugnant as homophobia.

I would've thought this to be self-evident, but I still see poofers calling other poofers "breeders" and "straights" in a very hostile manner simply because they are expressing affection with a female (and perhaps lesbian or transgender) friend.

Like with racism, sexism, and homophobia, all of us must honestly examine the attitudes and values we inherit directly or indirectly from our environment, and assess which are positive, nurturing and healthy, and which we should be working to modify or free ourselves from.

See you in the funnies, Campers.

*Norrie-May Welby
Marrickville*

From Sydney Star Observer 25 June 1993.

From Gamma Project Newsletter June 1993.

This extract appeared in an article from the Melbourne Sunday Age 30 May, 1993
Heterosexual HIV Infection Rate Rises
by Anne Crawford

It supports the material presented here on Women Partners of Bisexual Men

SHOCK OF A SECRET LOVER

Andrea's former boyfriend was tall, "straight" and attractive. He went to the football with the rest of "the boys" and, as far as she knew, she was the only woman he went out with. Two years into what she assumed was a monogamous - and trusting - relationship, she found him in bed with a man.

The discovery of "the big secret" in 1986 at once smashed the relationship and her faith in people. Although AIDS was not a reality for her social set, it concerned Andrea enough for her to have a test.

"It was just after the 'Grim Reaper' ads, but I never expected to be told 'you're positive'," she recalled. "I really wasn't expecting it. It was a real shock."

"Some people would say 'surely you would have known', but you can't know. I had no cause to suspect him. When you first start a relationship, you're careful, but when you love and trust someone, you believe them."

Andrea, 33, is bright-voiced and active, but a harder, less trusting person than she once was. She has been "sitting on the fence" for years, waiting for the first symptoms of AIDS to appear.

"As far as I can work out, I've been infected for six years. It could progress at any given time. It's a waiting game - and it's really difficult."

She guards her health zealously - early nights, a healthy diet and as little stress as possible - and has sounded out friends' attitudes to AIDS before confiding in them for support.

About 120 Victorian women have been diagnosed as HIV positive.

BRISBANE UPDATE FOR FEMALE PARTNERS

A support group called UPDATE, for female partners of bisexual men in the Brisbane region meets at Women's Health Centre, 165 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill. For further information ring Ann Cadden (07) 8541605 bus/h.

The Competition we are offering our readers is to name twelve people off the cover who have played bisexual roles on stage or screen. They may be bisexual or not but they have played roles of bisexual men or women (or transvestites) on either stage or television or movies.

The competition closes last mail on July 23rd and the first correct entry drawn from all those received will be the winner of a \$30 gift voucher to the store of their choice, Myers, Darlinghurst Bookshop, whatever. Write you name, address and telephone number on the same page as the 12 names and send it to BI-COMP., PO Box 490, Lutwyche Qld. 4030. The winner will be notified by phone or in writing and arrangements for the \$30 gift voucher made. Details of the result will appear in the August issue of National Biways.

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VICTORIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

Just a short note to let people know that things are starting to get off the ground in Melbourne. The Victorian Bisexual Network is in the process of being formed. By the time this appears in Biways some letters will have been sent off to local publications to let people know of the group. whilst in the last two years a couple of Victorian campus bisexual groups have been formed, the Victorian Bisexual Network will be aiming for broader involvement.

It will aim:

- - to provide a convivial social environment for bisexual men and women and their partners.
- - to participate in increased visibility and advocacy for bisexual people without making assumptions about the political beliefs of those who participate.
- - to be respectful of issues of privacy, and ensure confidentiality for those who contact and/or participate in the group.
- - to be a reference point for bisexual groups such as bisexual women's groups, bisexual men's groups, bisexual men and women and their partners working in the area of HIV, campus and regional and country groups.
- - to affirm pride for bisexual people.

With a bit of luck the first aim will be achieved first!

Whilst preparing with others to set up a bisexual group in Melbourne it has been really heartening to read all the different contributions to Biways. We'd like to congratulate Wayne Roberts, for organizing the conference last year which took one of us across the country for the weekend but was worth it, and acknowledge his efforts in producing Biways virtually single handedly.

The plan at the moment for the Victorian Bisexual Network is to have regular monthly meetings trying a few different venues till we find the most suitable one. At our most recent meeting a visitor from the U.S. spoke of her experience in U.S. bisexual groups, and was able to make some good suggestions about equal inclusion of bisexual women and bisexual men which was really great.

And so: **Victorian Bisexual Network**
PO Box 38 Clifton Hill
Victoria 3068

Cheers! Scott, Susan, Joe, & Zoe

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

Gordon in Perth reports that he has had quite a few people contacting him since his phone number went in the last issue. Gordon hopes to advertise the Perth group and a social gathering in the near future. He has obtained a Post Office box so WABN can now go back on the mailing list and address listings. If you are interested in the Perth Bisexual Group then give Gordon a call on (09) 3451720 or write to **WABN, PO Box 111, OSBORNE PARK, WA 6017** and include a SAE. Gordon will be sent a supply of Biways or a master copy to produce extra issues for the group, new members, and locations and other groups. Also if you live in the Bunbury area, Jacqui would like to hear from you with the view of forming a social group in that district. Jacqui can be contacted by writing to **Bunbury Group**, c/- either the ABN or WABN postal addresses. ABN would like to hear from bisexual people in the north and goldfields regions of WA who would be willing to become contacts for other bisexuals in their region.

Gordon will be sent a list of all WABN members and those on the mailing list for WA in August. If you do not want yours sent to Gordon you must advise ABN before August.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

SABN PO Box 3391 Grenfell Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

JULY 1993

14 Wed

MEETING - monthly meeting
7.30pm downstairs, Box Factory,
59 Regent Street South, Adelaide

21 Thu

BI BOP & BOOZE AT BEANS BAR
Regular get together for a chinwag, latest gossip, game of pool
9.30pm Beans Bar 258a Hindley St Adelaide

AUGUST 1993



11 Wed

MEETING - monthly meeting
7.30pm downstairs, Box Factory,
59 Regent Street South, Adelaide

19 Thu

BI BOP & BOOZE AT BEANS BAR
Another friendly social chat, dance and a drink
9.30pm Beans Bar 258a Hindley St Adelaide

CELEBRATE



DIVERSITY

Bisexual Conference - Western Region / Pacific Rim

We are happy to enclose the registration form for the Biwest 1993 conference to be held in San Diego from Friday evening, October 22 through Sunday, October 24, 1993.

Please get the word out right away by copying and distributing this flyer through the mail, at meetings, and posting it on bulletin boards. If you publish a newsletter, please announce the conference in the next issue.

This event will be a unique opportunity for us to communicate, learn, support, contribute and discover the extraordinary resources of our community. A wide variety of speakers and panels will cover all aspects of bisexuality. We are also planning for everyone to have a great time at the conference and take advantage of lovely San Diego.

Please note the discount in the registration fee if received by August 1.

Questions? Special needs? Please write us at:

BIWEST 1993
6231 Branting
San Diego, CA 92122
(619) 259-8019

Contact the
Australian Bisexual Network
for your copy of the brochure
form, or see June 93
issue of National Biwys.

Please copy and distribute the flyer widely !

The
SUNSHINE COAST
BISEXUAL GROUP

invites you to a

FAMILY BARBEQUE

Saturday, 17th July 1993

COTTON TREE PARK

MAROOCHYDORE

meet at the picnic shelter shed

11am

For further details contact:

Rosy (074) 482846

John (074) 918159

Jân (074) 429585

A SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE QUEENSLAND BISEXUAL NETWORK (SUNSHINE COAST)

The
QUEENSLAND
BISEXUAL NETWORK

invites

all bisexual women,
Q partners & Q friends

to another
BI-WOMEN'S SOCIAL EVENT

Sunday, 18th July 1993

at
HOLUS BOLUS
190 Boundary Street
WEST END

12 noon

View Donahue video on Bisexuality
Bring plate for picnic lunch
Discussion
Fun

For further details contact:

Terese (07) 3585516

Chris (07) 2776990

A SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE QUEENSLAND BISEXUAL NETWORK (BRISBANE)

The Queensland Bisexual Network (Brisbane Group) meets every
3rd Thursday of the month at the Resistance Centre,
29-31 Terrace Street, New Farm from 6pm to 7.30pm. (behind house)

The
QUEENSLAND
BISEXUAL NETWORK

invites

All Bisexual
Women & Guys

to the
First Social Meeting of the

GOLD COAST BISEXUAL GROUP

Saturday, 24th July 1993

at
3/2059 Gold Coast Highway
MIAMI

2 pm to 4 pm

Meet other bisexual people in a safe place
Discuss bisexual issues, talk, plan social activities
Afternoon tea provided
BYO Grog

For further details contact:

Wayne (075) 767240 a/h

A SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE QUEENSLAND BISEXUAL NETWORK

The
QUEENSLAND
BISEXUAL NETWORK

invites

All Bisexual and
Bi-Interested Guys

to a
BI-GUY'S FORUM
& SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Sunday, 8th August 1993

at
CHALICE HOUSE CAFE
549 Stanley Street
WEST END

12 noon to 4 pm

Discussion on being a bi-guy in a straight-gay world
Bisexual Issues: The social and the political
Serious talk--Fun time
Cafe open for Forum only
Food & beverages on sale

For further details contact:

Wayne (075) 767240 or (07) 8572774 w/ends

Jân (074) 429585

A SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE QUEENSLAND BISEXUAL NETWORK

SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

The Sydney Bi Network have been very active over the past few months. Their numbers are growing steadily as a result of the debates over bisexual and transgender inclusion.

Members now meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Wayne Roberts will fortunately be able to attend the meeting on July 12th and other activities are in the pipe line during his brief stay in Sydney.

SBN's newsletter, SNOB, will again be coming out soon. It is a big job doing up these newsletters, more finding the time.

Any enquiries from Bisexuals in Sydney and New South Wales in general can be directed to Kate on (02) 6981801. Anyone got heaps of money to fly some of us Sydney Bis to the Biwest Conference in San Diego in October? Worth a try!

QUEER COLLABORATIONS CONFERENCE

The annual national Queer Collaborations Conference for non-heterosexual students will again be held in Sydney over the week-end of August 14 -15th. Check with your own campus group to see who is going or contact QC members at the University of Sydney for more details.

The Conference will again have a strong Bisexual presence and Kate will be conducting this years Bisexual Workshop.

USA The ex-wife, lover and two other friends of Ricky Weil gathered in the balcony of the US Senate to discreetly drop his ashes to the gallery floor to protest the many lives lost to AIDS, as Weil requested at the time of his death. Around 300 rainbow coloured flyers ex-

plaining the action were also scattered from the balcony by the four during a conducted tour of the Senate. "It looked like a bag of flour had exploded, not a little sprinkling," said one of the friends.

From SSO. 25 June 93.

BADGES and T-SHIRTS.

ABN has thought up some interesting slogans and logos for use on badges and T-shirts. There are also the old favourites you have seen through-out previous newsletters. If you want to purchase any of the slogans as a badge or sticker write to us with the slogan of your choice along with \$2 for badges and 20cents for stickers plus postage.

For T-shirts, we currently have stocks of "I'm too Bisexual for my shirt" in black on white Australian made Bonds cotton T-shirts, sizes Large, Medium & Small. Cost is \$15 plus \$1.50 postage & packaging. If you are interested in any other designs, write to us with your T-shirt size, colour and the selected design and include a SAE and we advise you if it (they) can be done and quote you a price.

INFO & CONTACTS NEEDED.

ABN is keen to hear from readers about any groups that state they include bisexual people or are for bisexual men and/or women not listed in National Biways (see June issue).

We would welcome contact from any bisexual people in provincial cities and towns, and from any living in Tasmania, Northern Territory, and Canberra (ACT) who would be willing to act as local contacts for the Australian Bisexual Network. As ABN contacts you would only be required to send us any news items from local papers relevant to bisexual people and issues and to put around some copies of the newsletter and ABN info or you could decide to be a telephone contact for other bisexuals in the district or region.

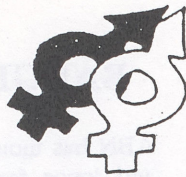
WIDE BAY - BURNETT BI GROUP ?

Brendan is a contact person in the Wide Bay - Burnett Region of Queensland. That is the region around and including the provincial cities of Maryborough, Harvey Bay and Bundaberg. Brendan would like to see a social group establish. To contact Brendan, write to Wide Bay-Burnett Group, c/- ABN and include a SAE.

USA At least \$US177 million was spent during the April 25 March on Washington, with the Washington DC Convention and Visitors Association declaring "no other single recent event, including the record-breaking 1993 Presidential Inauguration, has ever made such an enormous economic impact on the nation's capital." Clinton's inauguration generated only \$US65 million

for the Washington area. The non-profit mainstream tourism promotion group estimated that during the three day weekend of the march \$US90 million was spent on restaurants, \$US50 million on shopping and entertainment, \$US30 million on urban transport and \$US7 million on motel rooms with many groups having to travel outside the city to find accommodation.

Women and Bisexuality



Sue George

Women and Bisexuality is the first full-length book on bisexual women to have appeared in the UK. Using original questionnaire- and interview-based research, Sue George has 150 women from a range of backgrounds and age groups tell what it's like to be bisexual. Her revealing study describes how bisexual women lead their lives:

- Are they monogamous, celibate, involved in multiple relationships?
- Are they young, old, black, white, married, single, living as lesbians?
- How do their partners feel about their sexuality?
- How open can they be with their colleagues, friends and families?
- What has led them to identify in this way?

The women's experiences, including seven long and frank interviews, are placed against an examination of the theories developed about bisexuality from the late nineteenth century to the present day, a discussion of the often fraught relationship between bisexuality and feminism, and an analysis of why it has suited society to ignore bisexuality and to pigeonhole everyone into the categories of heterosexual or homosexual. *Women and Bisexuality* is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of how bisexual women live and what the future might be for bisexuality as a political and social identity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sue George has been involved in the feminist movement since 1978 and in the bisexual community since 1984. She works as a freelance writer and journalist and her articles have appeared in publications ranging from *The Guardian* to the *Pink Paper*, and from *Spare Rib* to *Marie Claire*. Her first novel, *Death of the Family*, was published by Hutchinson in 1989; she is currently working on her second.

£9.99 pb (ISBN 1 85727 071 1) / £30 hb (1 85727 066 5) 252 pages
Scarlet Press 5 Montague Road London E8 2HN

Women Talk Sex

Pearlie McNeill, Bea Freeman, Jenny Newman (eds)

Women Talk Sex is a revealing anthology of new autobiographical writing in which women speak of their personal sexual histories with unusual frankness. Including contributions from 20 women from a wide range of backgrounds and age groups, the collection explores the changing attitudes towards women's sexuality from the 1960s to the Aids crisis and draws together for the first time issues of race, class and gender around the theme of sexuality. Issues covered include lesbian identity; bisexuality; sexual repression; arranged marriage; masturbation; celibacy; disability; sexual abuse; transsexuality. The introduction by Patricia Duncker places the stories within a social and historical context.

SCARLET PRESS ORDER FORM

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Expiry date _____ Signature _____

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Scarlet Press 5 Montague Road London E8 2HN Tel: 071 241 3702 / 071 607 8618

Ask your Women's Bookshop to get these in for you.

THE SEXUAL CONUNDRUM

Spectrum of human sexual characteristics																	
	normal female	simple constitutional masculinism	adrenogenital masculinism	female homosexual	female transvestitism	female intersex without adrenal disorder	true hermaphrodite	Turner's syndrome	pure gonadal dysgenesis	male intersex testicular feminization syndrome	Klinefelter's syndrome	male transvestitism	male homosexual	adrenogenital feminism	simple constitutional feminism	male with hypoplasia	normal male
typical sex chromosomes	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XO	XY	XY	XXY	XY	XY	XY	XY	XY	XY
gonads female male	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●
sex hormones	oestrogens (female)	normal F	increased for female	normal F	normal F	normal F	normal or low	low		normal M	normal M	normal M	normal M	probably subnormal for M		normal M	normal M
	androgens (male)	normal F	increased for female	normal F	normal F	normal F	normal or low	low		normal M	subnormal for M	subnormal for M	normal M	increased	subnormal for M	normal M	normal M
external anatomy																	
phallus penis clitoris	normal size	normal size	enlarged	normal or enlarged	normal or enlarged	enlarged	normal penis or enlarged clitoris	normal size	normal or enlarged	normal size	small to moderate	small	normal size	normal size	small	small (may resemble enlarged clitoris)	normal size
urination	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	M	M	M	M	M	F	M
menstruation	normal	irregular or nil	nil	normal or irregular	normal or irregular	normal	usually nil	nil	nil	nil							
fertility	+	+ or -	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	- or +	+	-	+	-	+
psychological sex	F	F	F	M or F	neutral or M	For M	For M	F	F	F	neutral or M	neutral or F	M, F or both	M	M or rarely F	M	M

reproduced from the Science Journal, special issue June 1970

Dr C. N. Armstrong, consultant physician at Newcastle Royal Infirmary, gave evidence on April Ashley's behalf during her divorce hearing. This is how he sees the spectrum of sexual mixes. Transsexuals are similar to transvestites, but men have a feminine psychological sex and women have a masculine one.

from: 'The Age', 14 August 1982 Page 2

Sent in by Otto, Sunshine Coast, Qld.

26.

**BI**

PERSONALS

THESE PERSONAL ADVERTS ARE PUBLISHED FREE. The Australian Bisexual Network reserves the right to edit offensive ads or refuse to publish ads. If you have a complaint about an advertiser please inform ABN and we will contact advertiser or remove personal ad from BIWAYS. All advertisers should contact ABN if they wish their personal ad deleted. Personal ads will be published for four issues of BIWAYS then deleted automatically unless renewed by advertiser. ABN does not accept any liability or responsibility for ads published in BIWAYS. ABN advises all readers to only have SAFER SEX (use condoms & dams).

HOW TO REPLY TO ADVERTS: WRITTEN REPLIES ONLY.

1. Place your reply in a sealed stamped envelope.
2. Write the advert CODE on the front centre of envelope.
3. Put this envelope together with \$3 or \$5 for two replies in another envelope (stamps, money order or cheque accepted).
4. Post it to ABN, PO Box 490, Lutwyche, Queensland 4030.

ADELAIDE, SA.

BI GUY 45yrs, married, 6' tall, good looks, interested most things, wishes to meet other straight acting bi-guys 20-45 years for friendship and safe fun times. Only genuine replies please, phone number for quick reply, but all replies answered. Discretion assured and expected. Code SA-A1.

ALBANY, WA.

BI GUY mid 40's, married, seeks Bi couple in Albany area for fun safe times, discretion assured and expected. Code WA-M2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI WOMAN 40, teacher, seeks similar bi or gay woman for friendship, mutual support and understanding. Code QD-B1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI LADY 50 yrs, married, would love to meet a similar Lady for a loving discrete friendship or relationship. Love nature, cycling, swimming, love to laugh & going to concerts or good films. Code QD-R2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI LADY 26 yrs. new to area, seeking the company of lady to spend time during day and night with. I enjoy lazy nights, music of all types, walking & intimate dinners. I am average height, a few kgs overweight, long redish blond hair & enjoy life. Code QD-B4.

BRISBANE, QLD.

GAY GUY 34yr old wishes to try first time sex with woman. I am clean, discrete & slim. Couple okay. Code QD-B2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 26yrs, tall, fit, healthy, long hair, good looks, novice looking for Bi guy or couples. Code QD-S1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 30's, easy going, tall, slim, good sense of humour, athletic & fun to be with. Would like to meet Bi lady/couple for friendship. Code QD-M2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 37yrs, 6ft, 75kg, straight acting, non-scene, married, hairless body and loves nudity. Interested in naked guys, gentle, non-threatening safe sex with guys. Open to discussions with guys of all ages, talking about male & female sex but particularly keen to find guys who can relate to a married guy who is interested in gentle nude sex with other guys. Would like to write to or phone other bisexual guys. Have safe private post box for your letter. Code QD-H1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY A relaxed, good humoured, easy-going liberated Bi-girl sought by 24 year old Bi-guy, relaxed disposition, many interests. I'm looking for fun, friendship and ? Code QD-F1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 38yrs, tall, slim, single, sensitive, young at heart, would like to meet a Bi guy or Bi girl to 35 years to cuddle up with on cold Winter week-end days or nights & outings to movies, dinner. Friendship, possible relationship. Discretion assured and expected. Code QD-R1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

GAY GUY 29yrs slim, good looking, only into safe sex wishes to meet a young lady or couple for first time sexual experience with woman and explore my desires and sexuality further. Code QD-M1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 38 yrs. young minded, 5' 7", 58 Kg, very fit, passionate, likes horse riding, races, country outings. I am a shy person looking to meet Bi guys (broadminded) for first time encounter & possible relationship. Phone number for quick reply. Genuine. Code QD-B3.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY mid fifties, 6 ft, 89 Kg, fit, non-scene, enjoys safe sex & good company, seeks male any age, passive a plus, videos and non-invasive fun, good conversationalist a double plus. Code QD-D1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 24 yrs. 5'4" brown hair, hazel eyes and have a physical disability (walk with crutches) I like going out, movies, nightclubs but also like staying home, watching videos or reading a good book. I would like to meet a Bi-lady 18-25 yrs, who is interested in the same things I am and does not care about my disability (which does not prevent me from having a healthy safe sex life.) Looking for friendship possible relationship. Phone no. and photo (returned) is appreciated. Code QD-G1.

BRISBANE N'SIDE, QLD.

BI GUY 30 year old, hairy, moustache, good build seeks same for no hassle fun. Love giving oral. Like men with moustaches. 100% discreet & expect same. Prefer non-scene guys. Photo would be great (returned promptly). Code QD-R5.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY single 42 yrs. 75kg slim-med. build, sensual with attractive looks wants to meet similar single males, females, couples interested in safe Bi-sex. Age open. 1st ad. Discretion assured/expected totally. Phone no. and/or letters welcomed. Code QD-S2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

ROOM AVAILABLE in 2 bedroom northside house, well furnished, close to transport & shops, nice garden, very quiet area, share expenses with 1 guy. Rent \$70 pw. Phone 3661590 a/h.



BI PERSONALS

BUNBURY, WA.

BI WOMAN 32 yrs, slim & attractive, married seeks similar Bi woman or couple for friendship & relationship. Discretion assured & expected. ALA. Code WA-S4.

BYRON BAY AREA, NSW.

MASSAGE. Lomilomi Massage of the Ancient Kahuna Priests of Hawaii, plus Swedish. Relieve tension and stress with aromatic oils, relax to beautiful music in a warm room, let your worries just drift away under the expert hands of a qualified masseur. One hour \$30, 1 1/2 hours \$40, concession \$5 off. Men & Ladies. Milree Park, The Pocket. Phone Ken on (066) 845373.

GOLD COAST, QLD.

2 GAY MEN 36 & 45 seek Bi or gay guys for fun meetings. Prefer hairy guys, overweight no problem either. One night stands ok. All letters answered. Code QD-R3.

GOLD COAST, QLD.

BI GUY 38 yrs. single, tall, slim, Aquarian, new to coast would like to meet Bi lady or guy under 35 for social outings, friendship & perhaps cossy times together on these cold nights. Code QD-R4.

KAMBALDA, WA.

BI GUY 37yrs, married, interested in meeting Bi guys or couples in Kambalda/Kalgoorlie area. Interested in most things, safe sex and discretion a must. ALA. Code WA-H1.

MELBOURNE, VIC.

BI GUY 28yrs, finding it really hard getting into the gay scene and a straight life too boring. Interested in contacting other bisexual people in Melbourne. Am also visiting Queensland at least twice in 1993. Code VI-S1.

NOOSA, QLD.

BI LADY, single attractive 35 yrs seeks another lady for friendship and possible relationship. Code QD-A1.

NTH. NSW / S.E. QLD.

BI GUY Hi, I'm a healthy, smooth, versatile, enviro/concious, vegetarian, 25yr old bi guy who gets off on sport, art, dance, the beach but lacks the fulfillment of a bisexual relationship. Code NS-B1.

PERTH, WA.

BI GIRL 24 seeks meetings and friendship with other lady to 40 years, also couples with Bi wife. I don't mind if husband joins in. Please reply with photo and letter. ALA Genuine. Code WA-R4.

PERTH, WA.

BI WOMAN 19yrs, enjoys life, nice looking, sense of humour seeks Bi/gay women for relationship or friendship. Phone number appreciated for quick reply. Discretion assured & expected. Code WA-P2.

PERTH, WA.

BI GIRL 24 seeks f.ship + r.ship with lady any age. Couples also as a guy would be nice also. Photo please. ALA. Code WA-R5.

PERTH, WA.

BI WOMAN 29 yrs, attractive and intelligent, seeks a female for hot, safe, hassle free sex. Code WA-K1.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY 28 yrs wishes to meet other Bi - males, females, couples to explore and enjoy life with. Transsexuals welcome. Code WA-G2.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY married, 49 yrs old, would like to meet same or TV for mutual massage, fun safe times. I am slim, well built but not very experienced. WA-D2.

SPAIN The 15th Annual World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association is due to get underway in Barcelona on July 11, with a hectic program organised over seven days. Five

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY 35yrs slim build 5'7", fair, fit & healthy, reasonable looks, enjoys most things, good sense of humour, easy going would like to meet Bi woman for honest safe future. ALA. Code WA-M1.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY own business, 44yrs, married, 5'7", slimish, fit & healthy, reasonable looks, S.O.H. Into boating (own boat), gym, fishing, BBQ, outdoors, footy & cricket, meeting people. Interested in meeting younger Bi guys, Bi girls, married or single, small build, straight acting, under 5'7" for friendship and possible relationship, possible X-dress ALA. Code WA-B2.

PERTH/FREMANTLE, WA.

HETERO-BI GUY single, 20's seeks guys, girls, transsexuals, 18-25, any nationality for fun times & possible friendship, north of the river from Fremantle to City Beach areas, must be non-pushy, discrete, good sense of humour, easy going, don't mind if you drink or smoke (because I do) & most of all be honest. Only genuine replies please and send your photo & phone number for quick reply. ALA. Code WA-S3.

SYDNEY, NSW.

BI GUY 21yrs, single, slim, good looking, healthy, non smoker/drinker seeking guy/girl for one to one relationship, not into one nighters. Safe sex and honesty a must. Code NS-C1.

SUBSCRIBE TO National BIWAYS NOW

Be part of the growing Bisexual Movement in Australia by subscribing to National BIWAYS.

For your subscription you will not only receive at least 6 issues of National BIWAYS posted, but you will help build a stronger bisexual movement and community. You will be able to have a link with other bisexual women and men around Australia and overseas.

National BIWAYS is sent to other bisexual and bi-friendly groups in Australia, New Zealand, North America, the United Kingdom, Europe and Russia. The Australian Bisexual Network receives in exchange, newsletters and information from many of those groups.

Your subscription or membership will also help ABN develop a Bisexual Resource Collection and Archives here in Australia, send National BIWAYS to overseas groups, and participate in debates and campaigns linked to the bisexual issues.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$15/\$10 conc. per year.

MEMBERSHIP to ABN: FREE.

FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP: \$20/\$12 conc. per year.

specialised workshop "tracks" are planned for delegates to choose from, Skill Sharing, Sexuality and Lifestyle, Politics and Activism, Inside ILGA, and Health. Delegates are planning a massive international march on the United Nations in New York in 1994 to coincide

with the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots during Gay Games IV. The march is expected to be the largest mobilisation of human rights ever staged in the US. A record number of Australian delegates are planning to attend the conference.
From S.S.G. 25 June 93



BI

PERSONALS

The Australian Bisexual Network provides a free personal advert section in the national bisexual newsletter BIWAYS for bisexual or bisexually inclined people. ABN reserves the right to edit or reject adverts that include material that is likely to offend others or that suggests illegal activity. ABN will not publish material that appears as racist (no Asians), sexist (no fems), age-ist (no oldies), size-ist (no fatties) or classist or that involves children (minors) or the exchange of money for sex. Say what you like, not what you dislike. Treat people with respect and be honest about your own self.

TO PLACE A FREE ADVERT IN BIWAYS.

Please place my free personal advert in the next issue of National BIWAYS. I am 18 years or older and know that the publishers reserve the right to edit or reject any advert that may cause undue offense or suggest illegal activity. I understand my personal details given will be kept strictly confidential by the publishers and not given to any other group, publication or person without my permission in writing.

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

REPLIES TO MY AD: 1. PLEASE POST ALL REPLIES TO ADDRESS GIVEN ABOVE. _____

2. DO NOT POST REPLIES TO ABOVE ADDRESS, I WILL (a) COLLECT _____
(b) TELEPHONE _____

OPTIONS

YOU ARE

YOU SEEK

- ☐ BI MAN
- ☐ BI WOMAN
- ☐ BI COUPLE MALE/FEMALE
- ☐ BI COUPLE FEMALE
- ☐ BI COUPLE MALE
- ☐ BI MAN/GAY MAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI WOMAN/GAY WOMAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI MAN/STRAIGHT WOMAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI WOMAN/STRAIGHT MAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI TRANSSEXUAL MALE
- ☐ BI TRANSSEXUAL FEMALE
- ☐ STRAIGHT COUPLE
- ☐ GAY WOMAN or LESBIAN
- ☐ GAY MAN
- ☐ STRAIGHT MAN
- ☐ STRAIGHT WOMAN
- ☐ TRANSSEXUAL/TRANVESTITE MAN
- ☐ TRANSSEXUAL/TRANVESTITE WOMAN

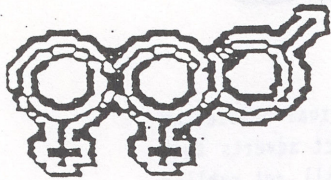
- ☐ BI MAN
- ☐ BI WOMAN
- ☐ BI COUPLE MALE/FEMALE
- ☐ BI COUPLE FEMALE
- ☐ BI COUPLE MALE
- ☐ BI MAN/GAY MAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI WOMAN/GAY WOMAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI MAN/STRAIGHT WOMAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI WOMAN/STRAIGHT MAN COUPLE
- ☐ BI TRANSSEXUAL MALE
- ☐ BI TRANSSEXUAL FEMALE
- ☐ STRAIGHT COUPLE
- ☐ GAY WOMAN or LESBIAN
- ☐ GAY MAN
- ☐ STRAIGHT MAN
- ☐ STRAIGHT WOMAN
- ☐ TRANSSEXUAL/TRANVESTITE MAN
- ☐ TRANSSEXUAL/TRANVESTITE WOMAN

My ad reads as thus:

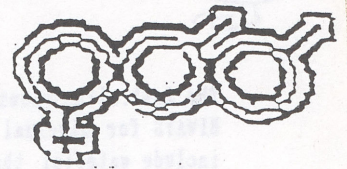
city/town	state	

attach spare paper

POST TO:- Australian Bisexual Network, PO Box 490, Lutwyche, QLD. 4030.



REGISTRATION FORM
AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK
MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTION



MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for membership of the Australian Bisexual Network which I understand entitles me to a vote at any formal meetings of the Network, seek endorsement to a position on the Network committee, a subscription to the Australian Bisexual Network newsletter: *National BIWAYS* and other entitlements that may be bestowed on members.

SURNAME:..... CHRISTIAN NAMES:.....

ADDRESS:.....

..... POSTCODE:.....

TELEPHONE NO.:..... home business

Is discretion needed should we need to contact you by phone?

I am already a (financial) member of :-
and my details/updated details are above.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION ONLY

I wish to take out a subscription to *National BIWAYS* the national newsletter of the bisexual movement in Australia.

SURNAME:..... CHRISTIAN NAMES:.....

ADDRESS:.....

..... POSTCODE:.....

I have already paid a subscription to *BIWAYS* which will transferred to *National BIWAYS*
(please tick) ☐

My postal details are as above.

DONATION

I wish to make a donation of \$5 (or amount given below) to ABN to help with the running costs and services (please tick) ☐

Membership \$20/\$12 conc. \$.....

Subscription Only \$15/\$10 conc. \$.....

Donation \$.....

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$.....

SIGNATURE:..... DATE:.....

Post to:-

AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

PO BOX 490

LUTWICHE

QUEENSLAND

AUSTRALIA 4030

"National Biways." National Biways, vol. 2, no. 5, July 1993, p. [1].
Archives of Sexuality and Gender, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/
YJCKJU583292039/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/YJCKJU583292039/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI).
Accessed 26 Nov. 2024.